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March 28, 2002 LB 791

there was not a majority of the senators who wanted to advance the bill for whatever reason.

SENATOR JANSSEN: That...that's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Members of the Legislature, I hope that you will consider what it is we're faced with, and will vote in favor of this bracket motion. I am not myself going to be guilty at this point of taking more time than be...than may be necessary to dispatch this issue, so I'm going to stop for now, I will not push my button to speak again, but I will close if I think closing is necessary. I'm suggesting as strongly as I can that we adopt this bracket motion and put this bill to rest for this session.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in opposition to the bracket motion. I'm somewhat nervous opposing that dynamic tag team duo of Senator Chambers and Senator Foley (laughter), but I personally believe that LB 791 is pretty innocuous. As Senator Janssen has mentioned, that it simply increases the payout because we've seen a decrease in the amount of money that's going to the Compulsive Gamblers Trust Fund and the Environmental Trust Fund and the Excellence in Education Those funds, as I understand it, were set up on a vote of the people. The people endorsed this concept, and said this is what we want. And, unfortunately, due to the other gaming, probably in neighboring states, the use of these things have gone down, and the money that's going to these organizations is decreasing as well. And I think you can make some pretty good arguments that some good things come out of the Environmental Trust Fund and the Excellence in Education Fund. But I think this just makes sense. I've got a little note here that says that these three charitable organizations have received over \$150 million since its inception. And as I understand what Senator Janssen is trying to do is to increase the payouts to increase the playing of this to support these charities. makes sense to me. I don't see the harm that Senator Chambers has mentioned. It seems to me that sometimes we pick issues just to kind of draw the line in the sand, and I think that's